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NEW IRRIGATION SYSTEM UNDER CONSTRUCTION

NEW SYSTEM TO IRRIGATE 12,500-DECARE AREA --- Otechestven Front, No 1596, 3 Nov 1949

The Arda is the only large river in Bulgaria not yet included in a water syndicate, although it offers an abundant year-round water supply which is sufficient to irrigate thousands of decares along its borders. The idea of a water syndicate was first conceived in 1946, and the Arda water syndicate, with 600 members, was established in 1947. In 1948, engineering and technical brigades drew up plans for the new irrigation system.

Pumping equipment, which is being imported, is expected to arrive in 1950; by then two thirds of the canals will have been dug and equipped. The system will consist of the following: a main canal 31 kilometers long and secondary canals totaling 28 kilometers. Four powerful pumping stations installed on the Arda River and four more on the Syutliyka will raise the water to 300 meters.

The new water system will irrigate a 12,500-decare area which includes a number of villages heretofore dependent upon rain water. The entire system is expected to be in operation by 1953. Funds will be supplied by the state and by the local population. The latter, however, are not yet fully aware of the great advantages provided by the new project and are rather slow in paying their dues and contributions to the syndicate. The citizens of Prileptsi village are an exception: the entire Turkish and Bulgarian population joined in building a canal 525 meters long. At present, work is being done on the main canal where it goes through the Prileptsi district for a distance of 6 kilometers. Three kilometers already have been completed.

In spite of intensive preliminary work and general good progress, the work on the project shows some deficiencies. No reports have yet been submitted to the Bulgarian Communist Party and the Fatherland Front. Okoliya committees of the party only have recently been informed of the work. Another shortcoming of the syndicate is the absence of a permanent technical adviser, the irregular supply of excavating equipment, and failure to educate the population in the importance of the work.

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CANAL COMPLETED AHEAD OF SCHEDULE -- Izvestiya, No 1563, 30 Oct 49

Minister of Construction Ivanov arrived in Ruse to inspect construction projects in this okoliya and then proceeded to the village of Brushliyan, Tutrakan Okoliya, to examine new irrigation and drainage canals. The population of Tutrakan Okoliya has already completed the construction of the first irrigation canal 8 days ahead of schedule. All classes of residents in Ruse Okoliya including youth groups, have constructed 37 kilometers of irrigation and drainage canals on the Brushliyan-Tutrakan plain.

RYE LEADS IN FALL SOWING PLAN -- Izvestiya, No 1565, 31 Oct 49

The Ministry of Agriculture has published a report on the fulfillment of the fall sowing plan. The over-all figures for the entire country are as follows: wheat 93 percent, rye 106.3 percent, and barley 82.8 percent. Farm workers cooperatives' participation represented 96.2 percent for wheat, 107.7 percent for rye, and 71.6 for barley, whereas the state farms' share was 102.3 percent for wheat, 108.3 for rye, and 98.3 percent for barley.

NEW OIL EXTRACTION PLANT IN PESHTERA -- Otechestven Front, No 1592, 29 Oct 49

The need for an oil extraction plant has long been felt in Peshtera Okoliya. The nearest plants are located in Plovdiv and Pazar, 50 kilometers away. Due to this inconvenience, sunflower seed had not been cultivated in the area. The Peshtera People's Council has purchased the necessary equipment and has started construction of an oil extraction plant. The plant is expected to be ready for operation on 1 November 1949. Excavation was started on 24 September, and construction will proceed as the necessary machinery is assembled. The entire work is expected to take only 20 days.

Peshtera residents worked without pay and did much to speed the construction of the plant so that it can be put in operation ahead of schedule.

FORESTING CAMPAIGN UNDER WAY -- Zemelaisko Znanie, No 977, 4 Nov 49

The Ministry of Forests reports continued progress in the fall foresting campaign. About 250 decares of mountain area have been afforested in the Pirdop and Svogen regions, and 4,088 decares of decayed forest have been cleared for rejuvenation.

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